



To: The Foothill College Academic Senate

CC. Advisory Council

Fr: The Advisory Council

Date: 12/10/18

Re: Textbook Costs

As part of an effort to make college more affordable for students, the State of California is incentivizing colleges to cut the cost of textbooks and course materials. President Nguyen has asked the Advisory Council to make a recommendation on how best to achieve comprehensive reductions in costs for our students. The Advisory Council is mindful that reducing the cost of education is consistent with our college/district equity goals. The Advisory Council also understands that curriculum and standards regarding student preparedness/success are a matter of faculty primacy in FHDA policy. With this in mind, and in order to best respond to President Nguyen's charge to our committee, the Advisory Council requests that the Academic Senate consult with faculty on how to reduce the cost of books and course materials. The Advisory Council asks that the Academic Senate present the faculty recommendations to the Advisory Council in February of 2019.

The following should be kept in mind as the Academic Senate discusses this issue:

- Maintaining high standards for all course materials will remain a priority.
- Academic Freedom should be respected.
- The College purchasing large numbers of textbooks is not a viable long-term solution to reducing textbook costs.
- The Advisory Council will also request feedback from students and the bookstore regarding how best to address the cost of course textbooks/materials.

The Advisory Council requests that the Academic Senate consider the following questions:

- Would faculty incentives (to develop/adopt lower cost options) be helpful in our endeavor to lower educational costs? If so, which incentives might work best?
- In order to make progress in these endeavors, would the Academic Senate support a timeline/bench marks for progress in reducing textbook/course materials costs?
- What concerns does the Academic Senate have about this initiative?